



Press Kit



Background

Mission

The mission of the Fort Wayne Dance Collective is to inspire and empower people of all ages and abilities through movement and rhythm.

Goal

We believe that all people should have access to the arts because movement can change the world. This is accomplished through diverse programming that cares for both the mind and body. At FWDC we establish a strong, non-competitive and experimental foundation of dance and drumming training.

History

Fort Wayne Dance Collective was formed in the summer of 1978 when five women met at a modern dance workshop sponsored by the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau. After the workshop, Cathy Craighead, Randy Levy, Liz Monnier, Krista Schloss and Lisa Tsetse decided to continue the momentum of creative expression by starting a non-profit modern dance organization. As a result of this momentum, Fort Wayne Dance Collective was born. In March of 1980 FWDC began supporting on-site classes, guest artists from New York City and San Francisco, and outreach programming.

In January of 1999, FWDC became a principal partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. The following year they began offering a Taiko Drum Class, the first of such group in the state of Indiana. To this day, Fort Wayne Taiko is the only Taiko group in Northeast Indiana.

In the 2017/2018 academic year, FWDC served over 45,000 people throughout Northeast Indiana and has provided scholarships, work-study opportunities, community programming, classes and performances to this region for the past 40 years.

Fort Wayne Dance Collective created the Indiana Dance Festival in 2006. In 2019, Fort Wayne Dance Collective will host the 4th Indiana Dance Festival, a three day community building event representing movement arts, wellness, and inclusion through classes, performances, lectures and networking opportunities.

Current Programming

Each season, FWDC provides a diverse line-up of events to engage the Northern Indiana community with our passion for fostering the creative energy in everyone. Below is a selection of our upcoming special events.

Events:

FWDC 40th Anniversary Party – Wednesday, January 23rd 2019

The 4th Indiana Dance Festival – Friday, April 12th – Sunday, April 14th, 2019

June Family Concert – Saturday, June 15th, 2019

For a current look at our class schedule, please visit this [link](#)

Outreach Programs:

[Dance for Community](#)

[Dance for Disabilities](#)

[Dance For Health](#)

[Dance in Education](#)

Staff & Board

Current Staff Members

FWDC is comprised of four full-time staff members. *Full bios may be obtained by clicking each staff members' name.*

[Elise Alabbas](#), Executive Director

[Mandie Kolkman](#), Artistic Director

[Ashley Benninghoff](#), Artistic Manager

[Cassie Herdon](#), Administrative Coordinator

Current Board of Directors

[Kathleen Alter](#), Board President

[Leslie Snare](#), Vice President – Account Executive, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

[Beverly Redman](#), Secretary – Chair and Professor, Department of Theatre, Purdue University Fort Wayne

[Karissa Reeves](#), Treasurer – Internal Auditor, Parkview Health

[Jared Baker](#) – Attorney, Burt, Blee, Dixon, Sutton & Bloom, LLC.

[Teresa Schomburg](#) –AVP, Business Banker at First Federal Bank

[Leslie Wade](#) – Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program Manager, VA Northern Indiana Health Care System

Collateral Material

Style Guide

To obtain digital logo files, please follow this [link](#)

Photos

Photos available upon request, please contact:

Mandie Kolkman, Artistic Director

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Phone: (260) 424-6574

Contact Information

Social Media

- a. [Facebook](#)
- b. [Twitter](#)
- c. [YouTube](#)
- d. [Instagram](#)

Recent News

<http://fwdc.org/about/press/>

Staff Contact

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